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metroNEWS

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017

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Nova Scotia ELECTIONS FOCUS ON APATHY

OUR VOTER VOID

Our columnist points the finger of blame at our politicians



Tristan Cleveland
For Metro | Halifax

The only thing that would be worse than this election's abysmal voter turnout would be failing to take action to fix it. Something fundamental gotta budge.

We have hit an embarrassing 53.55 per cent, among the lowest rates in developed countries.

Yet no politician talked turnout on election night. It's like the major parties are in their own bubble, while half a province is saying "we no longer care about any of this."

Well, this election was an indictment of all parties, so they should damn well listen up. Here are some things that have to change.

Drop the talking points — give us some leadership

I couldn't tell you, based on this campaign, why Stephen McNeil and Jamie Baillie joined politics. Do they have big ideas for our future

that drive them? Or is their spin and promises just polling data turned into words?

Imagine how refreshing it would be to have politicians speak candidly. I hate Donald Trump, but the jerk beat Hillary in part because he was the one not speaking in talking points. Voters can tell, people. It is so painfully obvious when someone is talking spin and we're sick of it.

There is a massive opening in this province for an actual leader to step forward with some honest passion for what Nova Scotia can become. But it won't be possible as long as parties make politicians stick to the median voter's middle ground. Today's political strategy ekes out tiny victories, while alienating everyone and making leadership impossible.

WE HAVE HIT AN
EMBARRASSING
53.55%

Proportional representation

One thing a lot of Nova Scotians did want this election was a minority government who can't just rule by decree. Instead, 40 per cent of roughly 53 per cent of voters gave Stephen McNeil complete power. Frankly, McNeil, that's a lousy mandate, so don't you dare act like God.

We need proportional representation so 40 per cent of votes means 40 per cent of government. And we need it so new parties can shake the establishment out of complacency. As long as only big winners can win at all, the big three have this province on lockdown. By far the most straightforward politician I saw this campaign was Jessica Alexander, deputy leader for the Green Party. It is insane that our system made voting for

her — or anyone offering sincere ideas — feel wasted. Enough. Let's use this crappy election to make Nova Scotia the first province to finally fix our broken system.

Fixed election dates

This election campaign was held smack in the middle of exams, the absolute worst time for young people to get involved. There is no public good served by our premier getting to strategically choose when he or she holds elections. The vote should be set by law on a specific date to maximize who can take part, not the current party's chances of winning. Fifty three percent turnout is an abject failure, but the biggest failure would be if we're in the same situation in four years.

Let's demand McNeil use his shiny new majority to make immediate, massive reform for our beleaguered electoral system. And let's find some leaders who replace cynical electioneering with actual ideas.

Plus

- Fair Vote Canada says proportional representation needed
- Advocate El Jones says focusing more marginalized communities would help
- Premier says he cares, but will he do anything about it?

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Nova Scotia ELECTIONS FOCUS ON APATHY

People feel disconnected: Activist

EL JONES

Addressing the marginalized is one way to better turnout



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

When El Jones conducts poetry writing workshops with people in places like prisons and women's shelters, the topic of elections brings a universal response.

"I wouldn't say there was one person in any of those venues that didn't write 'What's the point of voting? Politicians lie and they don't do anything anyway.'"

We're talking about the least served people, the most marginalized people," said Jones, an activist and Halifax's former poet laureate.

"So to me, it isn't 'OK, so therefore people are lazy and they're not voting and they don't get to complain.' We have to ask why do people feel so disconnected from the system?"

Jones did vote, but said she wasn't surprised by the historically low voter turnout in Tuesday's provincial elec-



Advocate El Jones in studio at CKDU at Dalhousie University where she hosts the program Black Power Hour. JEFF HARPER/METRO

tion. She expressed via social media her frustration at those pointing fingers and advocating for things like mandatory voting laws.

She said many poor, young and racialized people grow up never having their voices heard and any solution must

address a much deeper problem.

"How long do we expect people to put their faith in systems that have refused to serve people? For example, if you've lived for generations in poverty, if your mom was in poverty, if your grandmother

was in poverty ... if you're disabled and you can't get medication, you can't get education," she said.

"If that's all you're seeing at what point are you supposed to just keep voting and thinking it's going to get better and you'll get your voice heard? I

think we really need to think about do we owe people our votes or do we expect people to earn our votes."

While there is no one easy solution, Jones believes it has to come from the bottom and work its way up. She said telling disenfranchised people to

"just run for office yourself, then" when they complain about political parties and candidates is both unrealistic and misses the point.

"Poor people need to get their issues on the table. The people who get their issues on the table are people with money and influence, and they're not the majority," she said.

She said people must feel engaged and empowered in the political process before voter turnout increases. She believes that can only happen when communities and groups begin to engage people at a grassroots level, where they become empowered by projects and initiatives that actually bear fruit.

"If you woke up and you're angry that people didn't vote, I think one question you need to ask yourself is what can I do where I stand to make the people around me want to vote, rather than saying they should have voted," Jones said.

"Have I talked to those non-voters? Have I heard what they're saying? ... Do I understand them and what can I do to convince them that maybe if they're expressing they think politicians lie and they steal all the time, we need to listen to that and think about where that's coming from."



Premier Stephen McNeil celebrates his election-night victory in Bridgetown. THE CANADIAN PRESS

STEPHEN MCNEIL

Low voter turnout election night's 'big story': Premier

Premier Stephen McNeil told reporters at Province House on Wednesday that the "big story" from Tuesday night's election was low voter turnout.

"When you get the turnout down to near 50 per cent or 53 per cent I think it ended up at (Tuesday) night, which is almost a five or six point drop from the previous election, it's disappointing," McNeil said.

"I think we need to take a

hard look at what do we do. I don't (know) the answer to it... But I think there needs to be a hard look at what can we do to try to improve participation."

When asked if his re-elected Liberal government would make voter turnout a priority, McNeil said they had to look at it and find a way to engage more Nova Scotians in the process.

"The trend is going in the

wrong direction," he said.

McNeil said any initiative would require participation from all members of the House.

"I think it may even have to go beyond the House. I don't know what that looks like," he said.

"I think we also need to be mindful of the fact the prime minister also talked about democratic reform and... a lot of Canadians and a lot of Nova Scotians like the current system and we need to be mindful of that and figure out what do we do to try to get them involved in that."

YVETTE D'ENTREMONT/METRO,
WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



I would strongly recommend as a society we do some serious soul searching. Prof. Tom Urbaniak of Cape Breton University on voter apathy

Nova Scotia ELECTIONS FOCUS ON APATHY

Low voter turnout 'really sad'

ELECTION

Advocate says low numbers show electoral reform needed



Kelly Carmichael sighs when she hears just over half of Nova Scotians voted in the provincial election Tuesday.

a historic low. "It's really sad. Holy smokes," Carmichael, executive director of Fair Vote Canada, said Wednesday about the 53.5 per cent overall voter turnout number.

Fair Vote is a multi-partisan public campaign for voting system reform, promoting the idea that proportional representation would lead to a fairer process.

"Voters, as they learn

more and more about the electoral system, are becoming more and more disenfranchised with the idea that our electoral system under first-past-the-post delivers democracy," Carmichael said.

Looking at the numbers, Premier Stephen McNeil and the Liberals won a majority government Tuesday with 27 seats and 39.51 per cent of the vote — what Carmichael calls a "false majority" since most citizens didn't technically choose the government. With 17 seats, the PC's

had 35.8 per cent of the vote, and the NDP 21.4 per cent winning seven seats.

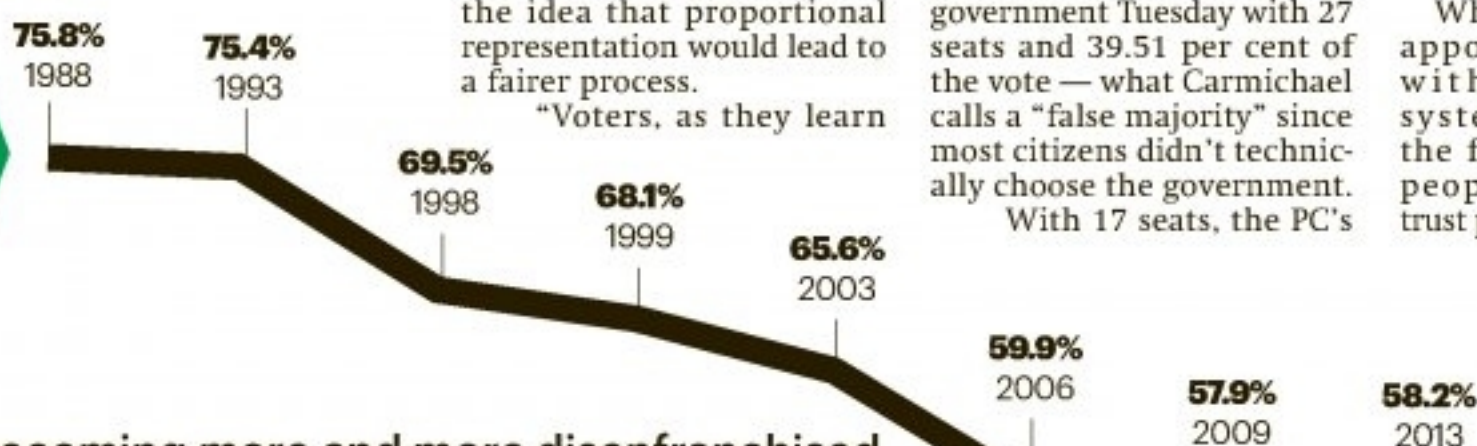
Although the Greens didn't pick up any seats in this election, a proportional representation system would have given them at least one because they landed 2.8 per cent of the vote.

When you combine disappointment within the system with the fact many people don't trust politician's

promises, and need to strategically vote to choose a lesser evil, Carmichael says it's clear a shift is needed to hand people an "effective vote."

"Just being able to cast a ballot and have some semblance of possibility of being actually able to elect a representative that's aligned with your values," she said.

BY THE NUMBERS
Voter turnout in Nova Scotia general elections since 1988



BY THE NUMBERS
The percentage of voter turnout from the 2017 election

53.6%
2017

“ Voters ... are becoming more and more disenfranchised with the idea that our electoral system under first-past-the-post delivers democracy. Kelly Carmichael

BY THE NUMBERS | FINAL VOTING RESULTS BY SEATS

27	17	7	0	0
Liberals (39.5%)	PC (35.8%)	NDP (21.4%)	Green (2.8%)	Atlantica (0.4%)

PUBLIC SECTOR

Re-elected McNeil signals tough line with N.S. unions

A day after winning Nova Scotia's first back-to-back majority governments in nearly 30 years, Premier Stephen McNeil signalled he will continue to take a tough line with the province's public sector unions in his new mandate.

McNeil's first term in office was marked by labour strife as his Liberal government tried to rein in costs through wage

restraint for teachers and civil servants.

Several contracts remain to be settled and McNeil was asked Wednesday how he plans to approach new deals for health care and other workers represented by the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union.

"We are going to continue to live within our means," said

McNeil.

"Nova Scotians gave our government a second majority ... and I'm looking forward to continuing to provide them with the government that they endorsed last night (Tuesday)."

McNeil wouldn't say when the legislature would be recalled to pass the budget that was tabled three days before the April 30 election call. He

said he had other immediate priorities, such as putting together a transition team and then naming a new cabinet.

Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie, who lost his second bid for government, said Wednesday he would stay on as leader for the upcoming legislative session, and "will take a look at where things are after that."

After winning 17 seats, Baillie said he's eager for the house to be recalled to deal with the Liberal budget. He has said the budget has to include more for health care and mental health.

"The business of Nova Scotia has to go on," said Baillie, a chartered accountant who served as CEO of Credit Union Atlantic before becoming party leader in 2010.

"We have urgent needs in health care and in mental health and I expect those to be addressed very quickly."

McNeil said the plan is to pass the same budget with some potential health-related additions, an issue largely seen to have contributed to the Liberals' loss of seven seats Tuesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SEXUAL ASSAULT

Clown sentenced to two years in jail



Philip Croucher
Metro | Halifax

A Nova Scotia clown has been sentenced to two years in prison for sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl, and then breaching his bail conditions.

Dale Rancourt, a 51-year-old man whose business name is Klutzy the Clown, was also sentenced Wednesday at Nova Scotia Supreme Court in Sydney to 24 months probation, along with being added to the

sex offender registry.

In total, Rancourt was given 31 months behind bars, but he gets credit for the seven months he's already been in jail for.

The children's entertainer pleaded guilty last month to a charge of sexual assault, which dated back to last year, and breaching his bail a few weeks later.

After his arrest in 2016, Rancourt was also charged with sexual exploitation and sexual interference, but those charges were dropped by the Crown.

CONTROVERSY

Vanity plate causes ire

A Nova Scotia man fighting to have his last name — Grabher — reinstated on a licence plate says police have now forced him to remove an inactive Alberta plate from the front of his car.

Lorne Grabher says he received a call from police Monday after a complaint was lodged against the personalized Alberta licence plate he had on the front of his car.

Nova Scotia requires only one valid plate, at the rear, and drivers in the province often place inactive or novelty plates on the front of their vehicles.

Grabher says police told him he would face a stiff penalty for driving with a fraudulent plate if he did not remove the Alberta plate, which had his last name on it in capitalized letters.

Grabher says he feels he's being unfairly targeted.

He received international attention after the Registrar

of Motor Vehicles revoked his personalized Nova Scotia plate bearing his last name, saying it was a "socially unacceptable slogan."

A hearing on the matter scheduled for provincial Supreme Court was postponed to June 6 after a lawyer representing the province requested more time. THE CANADIAN PRESS



The province deemed this vanity plate, personalized to be 'socially unacceptable.'

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Work has progressed on The Big Lift since this stage earlier this year, but while cars can use it, there's still no bike lane in place.

HALIFAX HARBOUR BRIDGES/DALE WILSON, CONTRACTED PHOTOGRAPHER

Open bridge to bikes

MACDONALD BRIDGE

Cyclists staging protest to push for progress on The Big Lift



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Frustrated cyclists have three choice words for those working on the Macdonald Bridge bike lane: "Get it done."

Rob Stevenson, Dartmouth

citizen and cyclist, is one of the organizers of a protest ride planned for this Thursday evening calling for Halifax Harbour Bridges (HHB) to make the bike lane a priority.

"It makes us feel second class, basically. The bridge has kept open amazingly for ... car traffic, and I can see that as being a great priority but we need to be working much harder on bicycle infrastructure," Stevenson said Wednesday.

Stevenson said irritation has been building amongst cyclists with every delay around re-opening the bike lane, since unlike drivers people on bikes

haven't been allowed to cross the Macdonald since June 2015 when The Big Lift began.

The bike lane was supposed to re-open in January 2017, which was delayed to March, then mid-May, and it has now been pushed ahead again to the end of June — a date Stevenson said he still doesn't believe they'll meet.

It doesn't seem like it would take much to get the bike lane open fairly soon, Stevenson said, since it's physically in place but seems to be used for storage of machines and supplies.

Stevenson said he understands large projects encoun-

TAKE PART

Ride for your rights

Cyclists are meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, with signs and noisemakers at the George Dixon Centre on Gottingen Street. They will ride over Macdonald Bridge with an HHB vehicle escort.

Riders can return to Halifax over the bridge at 7 p.m. when it closes.

The bridge has kept open amazingly for car traffic, and I can see that as being a great priority but we need to be working much harder on bicycle infrastructure. Rob Stevenson, Dartmouth cyclist

ter delays, but it seems feasible that the crews could keep machines on a flatbed truck and bring them over when needed, rather than leave them in the bike lane.

"It's time," Stevenson said. "Just get it done."

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CANADA 150 STAMPED IN OUR HISTORY The most famous goal scored in Canadian hockey history is now featured on a stamp. Canada Post unveiled a stamp Wednesday showing Paul Henderson immediately after scoring the goal that gave Canada a victory over the Soviet Union in the 1972 Summit Series. It is one of 10 maple-leaf-shaped stamps that mark significant moments in the last 50 years being released for the country's 150th anniversary. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Asylum seeker dead near border

MANITOBA

A woman from Ghana died from apparent hypothermia

Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister says the federal government has failed to reduce the risk in illicit border crossings because it has not tried to persuade the U.S. president to soften his immigration and deportation policies.

A woman who authorities believe was originally from Ghana was found dead from apparent hypothermia near the U.S.-Manitoba border on Friday. Mavis Otuteye, 57, was found roughly one kilometre south of the border near Noyes in a remote part of northwestern Minnesota.

Pallister said the President Donald Trump's crackdown is driving people to sneak across the border and risk their lives.

"We need to address the root cause of this ... the des-

peration people clearly are feeling — combined with the hope they feel — as they pursue a better life and come from the United States to Canada and to Manitoba," Pallister said Wednesday.

A spokesman for Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said Goodale was not able to respond directly to Pallister's comments, but added that the government has been clear in its messaging.

"Irregularly crossing the border is not a free ticket to Canada. Anyone who is found to not be a genuine refugee will be removed," press secretary Scott Bardsley said.

Refugee advocates and immigration lawyers say many refugee claimants have no choice but to cross through fields and ditches because, under the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement, they are automatically turned back at official border crossings if they have already made a claim in the U.S.

People who make it onto Canadian soil before being

caught are entitled to Canada's normal refugee process. Since January, more than 2,000 asylum-seekers have walked across the border — mostly in Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia — before turning themselves into authorities.

"I have always said that the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement puts people's lives in danger and that's exactly what's happened right here," Winnipeg immigration lawyer Bashir Khan said.

"Because of the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement, that woman died of hypothermia. ... She should have been allowed to come right to the port of entry on the Canada-U.S. border and make a refugee claim."

Some refugee advocacy groups, along with the NDP, have called on Ottawa to suspend the agreement, but the government has said the U.S. asylum system continues to meet international obligations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Son of murdered woman speaks up

The distraught son of Wendy Carlick, an advocate for missing and murdered Indigenous women who was found dead weeks ago, interrupted the national inquiry on Wednesday to share his grief.

Alex Carlick walked into the tent in Whitehorse where another family was testifying and began to speak into a microphone. Wearing dark sunglasses,

he said he was crying because both his mom and sister were taken from him.

"I feel everybody's pain around here. It's pretty hard that you have to go through these situations," he added. Carlick left the tent in tears.

All are welcome at the community hearings, said Bernice Bolton, the inquiry's spokeswoman.

"This individual recently lost his mother and although he was not scheduled to speak today, we did expect him at some time. He had something to say and the family supported family by giving him space to speak," she said.

These occurrences are to be expected, which is why health supports are in place, she added.

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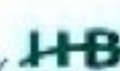
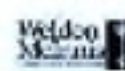
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U.S. could abandon climate pact

POLITICS

Leaving deal would fulfil a key campaign promise

President Donald Trump is expected to withdraw the United States from the landmark Paris climate-change accord, a White House official said Wednesday, though

Trump and aides were looking for "caveats in the language" related to the exit and had not made a final decision.

"I'm hearing from a lot of people both ways," Trump told reporters as he welcomed Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc to the White House. He said he'd be announcing his decision "very soon."

Leaving the deal would fulfil a central campaign pledge but would anger international allies who spent years in difficult

negotiations that produced an accord to reduce carbon emissions.

Trump faced considerable pressure to hold to the deal during visits with European leaders and Pope Francis on his recent trip abroad.

The president and his aides were finalizing the details of a pullout, an official said, insisting on anonymity to discuss the decision before an official announcement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



President Donald Trump is expected to withdraw U.S. from the Paris climate-change accord. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada still committed to Paris Accord

Canada is aligning itself with the world's other two largest economies to take a global leadership role in the effort to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said that Canada remains committed to the Paris Accord. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pollution costs Canadian economy 'billions': Report

Pollution costs Canadians tens of billions of dollars every year, according

to a new report.

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the report says that poor air quality alone cost the economy \$36 billion in 2015.

While a lack of data for some pollutants barred them from giving an overall estimate, the report contends that it's "very likely" they would add "tens of billions" to the annual cost — meaning the yearly price could be well over \$50 billion.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SOCIAL MEDIA

The mystery of covfefe

It appeared at 12:06 a.m., without warning, like a shooting star through the dark night.

Covfefe. Noun. (Was it a noun? It seems like it was trying to be a noun.) A word used, Wednesday, by the president of the United States.

It has come to this. To the confusion, delight and genuine alarm of the night owls of the world's most powerful country, Donald Trump wrote the following six words to his 31 million Twitter followers early on Wednesday: "Despite the constant negative press covfefe"

That was it. Covfefe.

Trump deleted the tweet six hours after it went up and then tweeted a rare bit of self-deprecation: "Who can figure out the true meaning of 'covfefe'??? Enjoy!"

Until then, people on the In-

ternet did the deprecating for him, making tens of thousands of jokes.

"What makes me saddest," wrote late-night host Jimmy Kimmel, "is that I know I'll never write anything funnier than #covfefe."

But the Internet people tried. Oh, they tried. They offered mocking definitions. ("When you want to say 'coverage' but your hands are too small to hit all the letters on your keyboard," read one entry on Urban Dictionary.) They made comedic purchases. ("My dad just bought the CA license plate 'COVFEE'")

Covfefe remained Twitter's top trending topic until it was deleted. The president's tweet had more than 100,000 retweets. For a few brief hours, Donald Trump brought the world together.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tragedy in Kabul

A suicide attacker struck the fortified heart of the Afghan capital with a massive truck bomb Wednesday, killing 90 people, wounding 400 and raising new fears about the government's ability to protect its citizens nearly 16 years into a war with insurgents.

The bomber drove into Kabul's heavily guarded diplomatic quar-

ter, leaving behind a bloody scene. Most of the casualties were civilians, including women and children, said a spokesman of the public health ministry. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack, which came in the first week of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The Taliban denied involvement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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VICKY MOCHAMA ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



A more humane system treats prisoners with compassion; it grants them a humanity that their lives might not have allowed for.

In prisons, we are facing a mental health problem and a growing population of women and girls.

To combat this troubling trend, we need to shift our thinking across the entire criminal system.

The fastest growing population in prisons worldwide is of women and girls. Sadly, this is also true in Canada. Overwhelmingly, female prisoners are some of society's most vulnerable.

Per the Elizabeth Fry Society, "They are primarily poor or homeless, under-educated and have addictions or mental-health problems such as schizophrenia, depression and anxiety disorders."

Since 2001, there has been a 100 per cent rise in Indigenous women in prisons. And according to Correction Services Canada (CSC), the number of people entering prisons with a mental illness doubled between 1997 and 2010.

Increasingly, the justice system is criminalizing those that society has failed to protect. We are punishing individuals for our society's failures.

By making changes that are less punitive and more humane — for example, counselling and drug therapies rather than solitary confinement and prolonged sentences — the justice

system can help prisoners escape the cycle of poverty and criminality.

Disrupting the prison pipeline is not solely a concern of the federal government. The federal prison agency houses 40 per cent of the 40,000 incarcerated

from CSC reported in the Globe and Mail. Self-injury is a marker of mental distress.

More strikingly, deaths in prison tell of the failure to deal with problems that are becoming more urgent. For prisoners like Cleve Ged-

yers, advocates and individuals.

One senator, Senator Kim Pate, has been vocal in her criticism.

Speaking to the Montreal Gazette, she said, "We know that the people who end up in prison aren't from an-



More humane and less punitive policies, like this quilt-making class at an Ontario correctional facility, can help inmates escape the cycle of criminality, writes Vicky Mochama. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

people in this country. The rest are in provincial and territorial jails, including people awaiting trial or serving community sentences.

A more humane prison system treats prisoners with compassion; it grants them a humanity that their lives might not have allowed for.

This inability to deal with pressing issues on mental health and vulnerability is increasingly evident. In the last decade, the number of prisoners who self-harm has tripled, according to data

des, Moses Amik Beaver and Soleiman Faqiri, to name a few who died in custody, mental health was a factor.

That many decades of punitive prison conditions have not worked is becoming evident to the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, too.

The committee is undertaking a national fact-finding mission to understand the experiences federal inmates.

Since February the committee has heard from 41 witnesses, including law-

other planet, they're from our communities by and large. And unless they die in prison, they'll be coming back to our communities ... If the goal is truly to rehabilitate these people, we're failing them."

Our criminal justice system must focus on providing justice, not on making more criminals.

Vicky Mochama is Metro's national columnist. She appears every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

No 'us' and 'them' in the war on terror



Azeezah Kanji
Metro Views

The images of the aftermath of the Manchester attack are devastating: families stricken with grief, a country's sense of safety and security shattered.

We can mourn the lives lost in Manchester last week because our media shows us their faces and tells us their stories — an attention hardly ever accorded to those living under the daily barrage of the U.S.-led war on terror.

We see the girls killed at a concert, but not the wedding parties pulverized by missiles in Yemen.

Our hearts break for the families bereaved in terror attacks in Western countries, but generally don't register the pain of Iraqi mothers whose babies have life-threatening birth defects caused by toxic American weaponry.

The same week as the atrocity in Manchester, airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition killed more than 100 civilians, including 42 children, in Syria, according to London-based human rights organization Reprieve. How many in Canada were even aware of these other atrocities, let alone familiar with the names and faces and stories of the victims?

We profile the casualties of Muslim terror in Europe and North America in heart-rending detail — ages, ambitions, loved ones — but don't bother keep track of the total number of Muslim civilians dead in the name of fighting terror.

The best estimate, from

Physicians for Social Responsibility, puts the death toll in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan at 1.3 to 2 million in the first 10 years of the assault (this excludes Yemen, Somalia, Libya and Syria).

Western victims of terror are grieved as individuals; Muslim victims of the war on terror aren't even recorded as an accurate statistic.

These are the privileges of the West: of feeling normally invulnerable to the types of destruction our militaries rain down on others, of not needing to know or care about the consequences of the violence our countries derive profit from. (The U.S., Canada, France and the U.K. are the biggest exporters of arms to the Middle East.)

We are left always asking why "they" hate us — is it because of our freedom? Our pop music? — while being ignorant about the grievances produced by our government and its allies.

Mainstream Canadian media coverage and commentaries artificially disconnect acts of non-state terrorism from this broader context of the brutalities of state counterterrorism.

This sustains the myth that "their" violence is exceptionally aggressive, senseless, fanatic, and indiscriminate, while "ours" is all defensive, rational, liberatory, and precise.

But on both sides of the pretend line between "they" who are barbaric and "we" who are civilized, it is innocents who bear the heaviest burden.

Azeezah Kanji is a legal analyst based in Toronto.

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We are punishing individuals for our society's failures.



Why his ex was off limits

David Sedaris has not shied away from chronicling his life, but the beloved memoirist cringed when he re-read entries about his first breakup

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



When a young David Sedaris first began writing his diaries back in the late 1970s, he would head to the International House of Pancakes (IHOP) in his hometown of Raleigh, N.C.

It didn't matter that the coffee was disgusting, or gave off a burning odour that "you could smell from the parking lot," he says, or that even when you poured plenty of cream in, the liquid never changed colour, because the staff would let him sit and write and read for as long as he wanted. On some days it was just Sedaris, wearing a beret — "a beret!" he emphasizes — occupying a booth while documenting his life on the back of paper place-mats.

Although Sedaris is now a cultishly beloved memoirist well known for his live performances and diary readings, this is the first time he is sharing his early IHOP journalling in print. *Theft By Finding: Diaries 1977-2002* is the first of two volumes of selected entries from his 153 personal notebooks. Lightly edited for clarity, the writing showcases not only the emerging sly, self-effacing wit and observational skills

now well known to fans of his books like *Naked* and *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, but it also documents the life of a struggling artist, and the harsh day-to-day realities of being depressed, hungry and broke.

After Sedaris left Raleigh in 1984 for the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, he immediately found another IHOP from which to hold court. Chicago was also where he discovered the first live audiences for his diaries.

Sedaris was asked to take part in a variety show with a strict seven-minute performance limit, and not having anything appropriate time-wise, decided to read funny passages from his personal notes.

"That changed the writing in my diary because when something happened, or I would see something that was funny, I would take extra care with it because I'd think this might work on stage," he says.

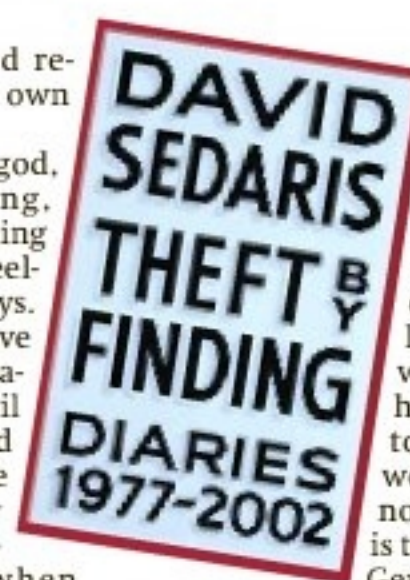
Sedaris has never kept diaries to chronicle his own emotions, and he rarely delves into his feelings, except for a short period of time in his early 30s following a breakup. He decided not to include those entries in *Theft By Finding* — his ex didn't want to be written about, and Sedaris



also cringed re-reading his own words.

"Oh my god, the whining, and the talking about my feelings," he says. "I didn't have my first relationship until I was 27, and most people have their first relationship when they're 14, and they break up and act like they're 14. I was 30, 32 when I broke up with this person, and I acted like a 14-year-old."

The most challenging part of going through the



anything at an IHOP, though he's still a diligent diarist. He has no interest in Starbucks laptop culture, and only seeks out a local coffee shop while on tour if his hotel room is too depressing to work in. His spiral notebook of choice is the Japanese-made, German-named Rollbahn, a "traumatizing" switch — Sedaris hates any change — made a year ago. When his laptop was stolen in 2011, the biggest panic was over the loss of his tour diaries. Sedaris's

I didn't have my first relationship until I was 27 ... I was 30, 32 when I broke up with this person, and I acted like a 14-year-old.

David Sedaris

notebooks, he says, was transcribing his own writing. What did that sentence say? "Cl... chu... Oh, it looked like he was wearing a clown nose," he says, laughing after stuttering several times for comic effect over the word "clown."

It's been about 25 years since Sedaris has written

boyfriend Hugh tried to reassure him that he still lived all those months, regardless of whether they were written down, but six years later Sedaris still sounds worried.

"But how do I know? I don't have any record of it. How can I be sure I lived if all the details aren't documented?"



JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Rocker's father the star of documentary

THE SHOW: Bruce Springsteen: In His Own Words
THE MOMENT: The psych evaluation

Over images of cars cruising night streets, we hear Bruce Springsteen address a concert audience. "I had this habit," he says. "I used to get in my car and drive through my old neighbourhood in the little town I grew up in."

He says he did it late at night, three or four times a week, for years. Finally he went to a psychiatrist. "I

said, 'Doc, what am I doing?'" Springsteen continues. "He said, 'I want you to tell me what you think you're doing.'" The audience chuckles.

Eventually the doctor tells Springsteen, "Something bad happened, and you're going back thinking you can make it right again." Springsteen agrees: "That's what I am doing, going back to see if I can fix it." The doctor says, "Well, you can't." Then Springsteen launches into the song "My Father's House."

The unseen star of this docu-

mentary, based on Springsteen's recent autobiography of the same name, is his father, who dominated young Bruce, and was later diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Springsteen admits that in many of his songs, he constructed a persona based on "a vision of my pop as a transcendent figure, my greatest foe and greatest hero." He even dreams about his dad watching him on stage.

OK, it's not the most complex psychological puzzle ever unravelled. But Springsteen's music is transcendent precise-

ly because it plumbs the frustrations and yearnings of the common man. His best songs are three-minute shrink visits for fans unlikely to visit a real psychiatrist, and he's their hero/healer.

Bruce Springsteen: In His Own Words airs periodically on HBO and anytime on mobile devices via TMN GO.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



Bruce Springsteen in 1972, part of HBO's *Bruce Springsteen: In His Own Words*. CONTRIBUTED

Perfect pots for any plants

Gardening season is in full swing and a few pretty pots on a patio or balcony filled with your favourite blooms can pull together an outdoor space. Here is a selection for a variety of spaces.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



TIP
Several pots grouped together add colour and ambience to an outdoor sitting area.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR

Modern Wood Leg Standing Planter — Cylinder

This modern wood stand and planter looks great and is suitable for both indoors or out. Fill the cement planter with leafy green plants or trendy cacti. westelm.com, \$180.33.

LOW MAINTENANCE

Hanging Air Plant Holder

Air plants, like the one in this stylish glazed clay holder made by artist **Jeremy Ford** in his Almonte, Ont., studio, are low maintenance and don't require soil. Hang it in a partly sunny spot. To water, submerge the plant in a dish of water for several hours every 10-14 days.

etsy.com, \$27.



BALCONY BUDDY

Coral Hanging Planter

Montreal-based artist **Stéphanie Fauteux** crafts these tiny, ceramic, hanging planters. Fill with a succulent or miniature fern and hang in a covered area such as a porch or balcony. etsy.com, \$28.



TINY PLANTS

Liberte pot and saucer

Perfect for a tiny plant, this pretty patterned pot won't take up a lot of space on a small patio or balcony. If you have space scoop up one in every pattern and group them together on a shelf or table.

homesmithhouse.com, \$11.90.



CUTE CERAMIC

Femme Vase, large

Pretty petals deserve stylish pots and we think this cute ceramic vase adds just the right touch. Fill it with flowers or something green and perch it on your bar cart or side table for a playful touch.

blackroosterdecor.com, \$41.12.

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Sean Plummer

It's the board game that has left millions feeling either smug or stupid.

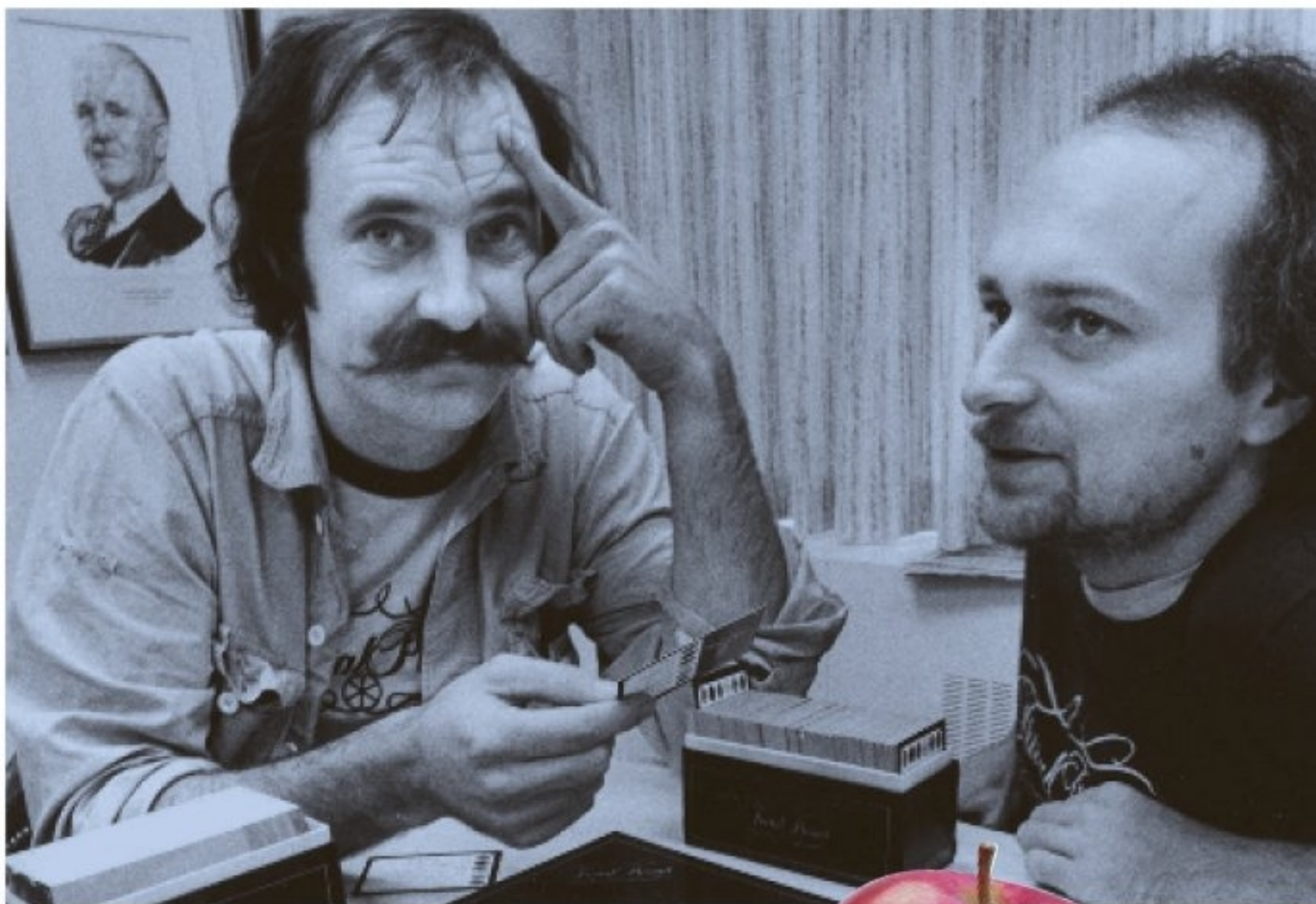
Trivial Pursuit was the brainchild of Montrealers Chris Haney and Scott Abbott. As the story goes, the newspapermen were playing Scrabble in December 1979 when they noticed several game pieces missing. So they decided to make

up their own game.

They quit their jobs, raised \$75,000 from 34 investors, flew to Spain to develop it, and brought it to market in 1982.

Some 88 million copies of Trivial Pursuit have been sold in 26 countries in 17 languages, with the peak of the game's popularity coming in 1984 when 20 million sets were sold in a single year.

Several special editions have been created since then, including ones catering to fans of Power Rangers, the Star Wars and Lord of the Rings films, even Saturday Night Live. The game has also been adapted into TV shows, computer games, and a smartphone app. The latest tabletop iteration, Trivial Pursuit: 2000s, is aimed at millennials.



Trivial Pursuit co-creators Chris Haney (left) and Scott Abbott had a hit on their hands. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Snakes on a plain

The snakes themselves are harmless, but that doesn't make the snake pits of Narcisse, Manitoba, any less strange.

Tens of thousands of red-sided garter snakes make their home underground here, emerging in late April through May to mate. They come back in September before returning to their subterranean dens.

According to Manitoba's government website, the best time to view the festivities is, understandably, Mother's Day weekend.

SEAN PLUMMER



ISTOCK



ISTOCK

Apple of our eye

Canada's national apple, the McIntosh, was named after John McIntosh, a farmer who discovered a superior green-and-red apple on his property on what was then called Dundela, Canada West, in 1811.

The family started mass production of the McIntosh

in 1835, when John's son Allan learned the art of grafting.

The original McIntosh tree continued to bloom until 1910. A piece of trivia: Apple Computers employee Jeff Raskin named the Macintosh line of computers after the fruit.

SEAN PLUMMER

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Making happy campers

SUMMER FUN

Day camps set to build fond memories for kids

Sean Deasy

If you grew up in Canada there's a good chance summer day camps are among your most cherished childhood memories. And with good reason: they were all about fresh air, new friends and fun activities.

Today, the summer day-camp landscape may look somewhat different — but fun times are still the focus. And with a wider array of diverse activities — and, in some cases, an emphasis on learning and strengthening leadership skills — day camps of 2017 truly aim to please everyone.

A glimpse at the roster of day camps available in most Canadian cities show programs centered on super heroes, ninjas, warrior training animation, film, video-game design, fashion-design, make-up artistry, and even Minecraft and Lego. There's also a rock-band camp where kids not only sharpen their musical skills but also gain insights into the business side of being in a band.

Of course sports camps still largely dominate the scene, but now they include relatively un-

common athletics such as fencing.

"There is a camp that's going to be a right fit for your child," says Agnes Stawicki, managing editor at Our Kids Media. "And it'll be a camp that they're going to absolutely love."

Day camps that focus on learning are on the rise, she says.

"A big trend that we have seen really grow over the last few years has been around S.T.E.M. — science, technology, engineering and math camps," says Stawicki, who adds that nearly all day camps retain a physical component in addition to the core pursuit.

"Of course it's important that kids are playing, getting the fresh air and physical activity through out the summer," she says. "It's not just that their minds are active and being engaged, but their that bodies stay active throughout the summer months as well."

Some longer term benefits of attending a summer day program, says Stawicki, include making new friendships, developing social skills and building confidence — all while being away from parents for the day in a new environment, and tackling new challenges.

"Within a camp setting often you're put into situations where you need to resolve your own issues, learn how to follow well, or lead a particular group," she says. "That allows kids to build confidence and resilience they need in life."



Modern summer day-camps offer a wider array of diverse activities. ISTOCK

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Summer camp options in HRM

SUMMER FUN

From dance to science, there's something for every kid

Maggie Jenion

Summer break is just around the corner. While kids are counting down the days, many parents are still figuring out what camps to put them in.

No worries, there are still lots of spots available in a bunch of different summer day camps throughout HRM.

Level Up Learning Centres has several day camps for kids who love computers. There are Minecraft camps, as well as Java coding and robotics. The camps are held at the Nova Scotia Community College and are for kids eight and up.

Many dance and martial arts studios offer all kinds of summer day camps. There are still some spots for campers at Studio in Essence, where kids seven to 11 can try out



Dalhousie University offers both sports and science camps, for kids interested in oceans, engineering and technology. iStock

circus arts this summer. Halifax Dance offers camps where kids can try out several different kinds of dance styles such as hip hop, ballet and jazz. MAMBE (Martial Art Mind Body Education Centre Inc.) offers camps in Cole Harbour

Place with weekly themes, outdoor activities and swims.

Canada Games Centre has an eclectic mix of summer camps this year. There are karate, wrestling, robotics, rhythmic gymnastics, crafts, stop-motion animation to name a

handful.

The new Discovery Centre has a full array of summer camps for little scientists. Their summer camps are in three categories: Destination Discovery, Digital Discovery and Ocean Technology.

Neptune Theatre has camps for four year olds who love fairytales, seven year olds who love Harry Potter, tweens who want to rock, and teens who want to flex their acting muscles — and every kid in-between. Neptune has an

exhaustive list of camps that will get pretty much any kid excited for camp.

University of Kings College has some fantastic themes this year for their kids summer camps: dragons, explorers, seafarers are just a few. There's storytelling, crafts and games, plus field trips to great spots around the city.

Saint Mary's University Jr. Huskies camps feature hockey, basketball, soccer, football and volleyball. They're all led by SMU coaches, assistants and athletes, so kids will learn new skills while making friends and having a lot of fun.

Mount Saint Vincent University also has lots for kids this summer. There are camps celebrating Canada's 150th, exploring the world, what life will be like in 2050 and lots more.

Dalhousie University has tons of sports and science camps. Dal Tigers sports camps have lots to offer, including soccer, volleyball, basketball, climbing and more. Super-NOVA camps teach kids about all kinds of subjects including science, oceans, engineering and technology.

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Shaggy-chic design is bringing fringe into the mainstream

DECOR

From runway to the foyer, trim is taking over interiors

Like coquettish long eyelashes or chic bangs, fringe has a beguiling style that draws it every so often back into the trend orbit.

Now is one of those times in fashion and home decor, thanks perhaps to our current flirtation with eclecticism and our ongoing love affair with the retro '70s.

You'll see many variations on fringe. Wispy bits softening the edges of textiles; thick hedgerows accentuating the lines of a rug or basket; longer curtains of fringe that make a piece of art or furniture that much more intriguing.

Urban Outfitters, for instance, has a Moroccan pouf

covered in creamy cotton, with sequined trim and several wraps of woolly fringe. There's a bolster that marries pompoms, tassels, fringe and geometric embroidery. A wall hanging from India combines several clusters of fringe in a palette of blush, cream, apricot and grey.

For the bedroom, a soft cotton comforter, in charcoal, rose, tan or cream has rows and rows of dainty eyelash fringe. There's a throw blanket and pillow shams with the decorative trim, too.

Designer Nate Berkus has added fringe to several collections he's done for Target, including lampshades and a diminutive stool. This season,

there are fringed table runners and throw pillows, and a little basket with a dapper fringe belt made of lampakanay, a Philippine fiber.

"Fringe is one of my favourite embellishments," says Berkus. "It always seems luxe to me."

Extra-long fringe creates a saucy skirt on a handwoven, black-and-white triangle pouf at West Elm. A Moroccan-inspired shag rug in black and grey with a sapphire streak and fringed edges brings drama to the floor. And a cotton bedspread with a Peruvian-inspired circle print is bordered with a thick fringe that punctuates the print.

At Toronto design house

Elte, a Belgian linen pouf is dressed up with bone buttons and Tibetan wool fringe.

From Arhaus' Boho pillow collection, there's a woven lumbar pillow trimmed in black or ivory fringe in a contemporary yet playful motif.

And if you're ready for something a little more dramatic on the fringe front, consider designer Laura Kirar's Guernica lounge chair. The chair's back is dressed in a full mane of black or brown leather fringe. Smooth and textured laces are needled and knotted into 3,500 holes on the cane back, and the effect is spectacular.

"I love that it's strong and opinionated," says Kirar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



From top: Patterned Indian cotton pouf with fringe skirt from West Elm. A table runner by designer Nate Berkus for Target. A throw pillow from Urban Outfitters featuring pompoms, tassels and fringe. A basket by Berkus for Target.

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Moroccan-inspired pouf with shaggy trim from Urban Outfitters. CONTRIBUTED

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Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has signed a new two-year deal that will extend his stay at the north London club to nearly 23 years

Pens send Rinne running

2017 NHL PLAYOFFS
PENGUINS LEAD SERIES 2-0

Guentzel's two tallies lead to third-period takeover

A third-period eruption knocked Pekka Rinne from the net and gave the Pittsburgh Penguins a 2-0 series advantage in the Stanley Cup final.

The Penguins beat Rinne three times in the first 3:28 of the third, scoring a 4-1 Game 2 win over the Nashville Predators on Wednesday night.

Jake Guentzel led the rally with the second of his two goals while Evgeni Malkin and Scott Wilson also found the back of the net.

Guentzel set a new rookie record with his fifth game-winning goal of the playoffs and Chris Kunitz added two assists.

Rinne gave up four goals on 25 shots and was outclassed again by Matt Murray, who stopped 37-of-38 shots.

Pontus Aberg scored the lone goal for the Preds, who host their first ever Stanley Cup final game under dire circumstances on Saturday night.

The defending champs just got away with a win in Game 1 despite going 37 minutes without a shot. They came out quickly in Game 2, firing five shots in the first six minutes with quality offensive zone pressure.

There to thwart their early opportunities was Rinne.



NHL playoff goal-scoring leader Jake Guentzel scored his 11th and 12th off the post-season on Wednesday night.

GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

GAME 2 In Pittsburgh



The 34-year-old was huge in helping the Preds advance to their first Stanley Cup final, but struggled to the tune of four goals on only 11 shots in the series-opening loss. He snared a deflected Phil Kessel shot on an early Penguins power play though and then came up with back-to-back stops on Olli Maatta and Patric Hornqvist, the latter on a wraparound.

Nashville had a nervous moment at the midway point of the first when P.K. Subban took a cross-check to the neck from Kunitz. Down on the ice in obvious discomfort, Subban grabbed his neck and required attention from the team trainer when he finally returned to the bench.

The Predators biggest advantage in the series was their

vaunted defence and like in Game 1, it seemed to be paying dividends in Game 2. The group, with help from an engaged forward group, limited shots in and around Rinne, won puck battles along the boards and escaped the defensive zone with seeming ease at least until the Penguins' third-period outburst.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOLF

Tiger DUI vid released

Tiger Woods can't follow simple instructions during a dazed and disoriented encounter with police in dash-cam footage that Jupiter released Wednesday night.

During a field sobriety test, Woods swayed as he straddled the white line and could not take a step in the heel-to-toe method. When asked to raise his right hand, he started to raise his left hand when the officer corrected him.

Eventually, his hands were behind his back as he was arrested and placed in the back seat of a patrol car.

The footage came from his arrest Monday in the dark of early morning when Jupiter police noticed his Mercedes parked on the side of a six-lane road, part of it in the road and part of it in the bicycle lane.

Police found Woods sound asleep behind the wheel, according to an incident report. The engine was running, the brake lights were on and the right turn signal was blinking. Police also released photos of his car that showed both tires flat with minor damage around the bumpers.

When the officer asks Woods where he had been, the 14-time major champion says, "LA." He says he was headed down to Orange County.

Woods said, "No" when asked if he had been drinking. When he told them he was taking medication, police muted part of the tape in which Woods describes it.

A breath test registered a blood alcohol level of 0.00 per cent. Woods later said his condition was caused by prescription medications.

Woods is to be arraigned July 5 in Palm Beach County court on the DUI charge.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRENCH OPEN

Raonic turns it on after flat first set



Milos Raonic GETTY IMAGES

Canada's Milos Raonic is through to the third round of the French Open after a 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 win over Brazil's Rogerio Dutra Silva on Wednesday.

Raonic fired his 25th ace of the day on match point to set up a third-round meeting with Spain's Guillermo Garcia-Lopez.

In women's action, Montreal's Francoise Abanda was bounced from the second round after losing 6-0, 6-0 to 11th-seeded Caroline Wozniacki.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Nats' Harper drops appeal

Washington Nationals star Bryce Harper has agreed to drop his appeal of a four-game suspension and will have one game shaved from the punishment.

Harper reached the agreement Wednesday with MLB and was to begin his suspension immediately.

The punishment stemmed from a bench-clearing brawl on Monday after Harper was hit by a fastball from the Giants' Hunter Strickland.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA FINALS

LeBron's L.A. home hit with racial slur

Police are investigating after someone spray painted a racial slur on the front gate of LeBron James' home in Los Angeles on the eve of the NBA Finals.

An unidentified person spray painted the N-word on the front gate of James' home in Brentwood Wednesday morning, said a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Police Department. Police are investigating it as an act of vandalism and possible hate crime.

Speaking in Oakland, where his Cleveland Cavaliers face the



LeBron James GETTY IMAGES

Golden State Warriors in the NBA Finals beginning Thursday night, James said: "My family is safe, they're safe and that's most important," James said. "But it just goes to show that racism will always be a part of the world."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Tiger Woods GETTY IMAGES

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Luscious Fruit Salad with Cardamom Cider Dressing



PHOTO: MAYA VISNIE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Who said salad had to be greens only? Why not serve a bowl of this luscious, summery goodness beside your next grilled dinner?

Ready in 20 minutes

Prep time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 gala apple, sliced into cubes
- 2 cups sliced strawberries
- 1 cup blueberries
- 1 cup diced pineapple
- 1 cup raspberries

Dressing

- 1 Tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup apple cider
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 tsp lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp ground cardamom

Directions

1. Toss all your fruits in a large bowl.

2. Meanwhile, whisk the cider vinegar, cider, oil, honey and lemon juice. Add the vanilla and cardamom. Dress the salad with desired amount of dressing.

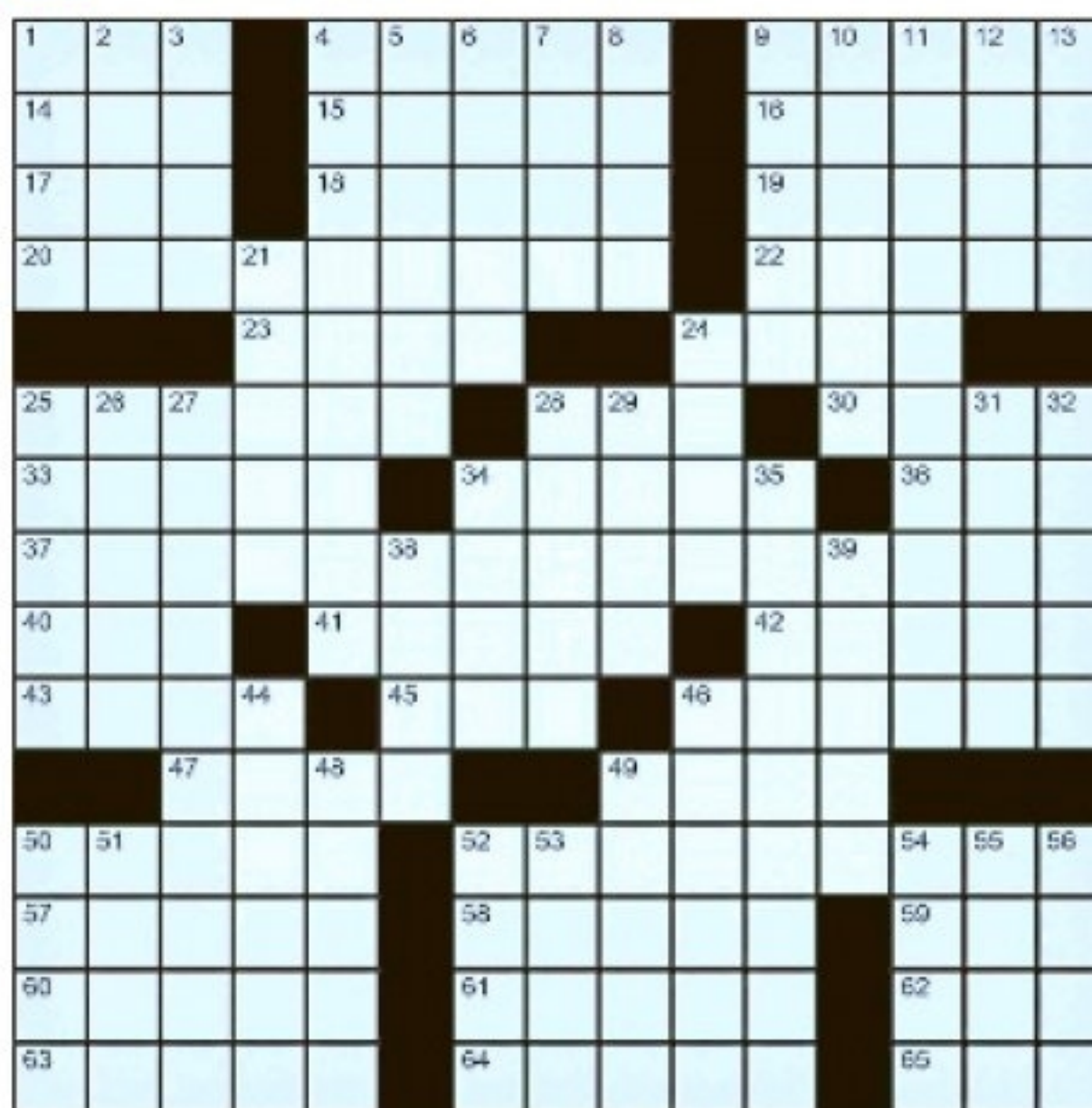
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BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. "The Ring ..." (2005)
4. Apples sorts
9. Farm milk dispenser
14. Electrical resistance unit
15. Sheep-like
16. "You rang?" character on "The Addams Family"
17. You, to Yves
18. Japanese poem of five lines/thirty-one syllables
19. Victoria Park is located in the 'hub' of what Nova Scotia town?
20. Maintains a balanced diet: 2 wds.
22. Romulus' twin brother in Roman myth
23. Toroidal topper
24. Clean
25. Amounts in egg cartons
28. Camel hair cloth
30. Mail
33. Prescription warning, "___ Directed"
34. ___ Bay, British Columbia
36. Mr. Ferrigno
37. Lacey Burrows' portrayal on "Corner Gas": 2 wds.
40. Kiev's li'l land
41. De-wilds
42. Highlanders
43. Johnny Carson's predecessor Jack
45. Jamie Foxx title role
46. "I need water!" reason
47. Hock
49. Golf tap
50. Caterpillar, for



example
52. Moving along quickly
57. Homer's epic masterpiece
58. Supercharger
59. At present
60. Canadian Rockies, for example
61. Low ship deck

62. "___ Freedom" (1987)
63. Staked, in poker
64. Plague, in Paris
65. Harrison Ford role, with Solo

DOWN

1. Bag style
2. '___ Nelly!': Ms. Furta-

do's debut album
3. Bypass
4. Ontario: 2017 marks this Greater Golden Horseshoe commuter service's 50th anniversary: 2 wds.
5. Helps
6. Jargon
7. Sacred looped

cross
8. Show to one's table
9. Ne plus ___ (Perfection)
10. Coerced confession cause
11. Midland Provincial Park's location in the badlands of Alberta

12. Hosiery hue
13. 17th Greek letters
21. Shave the sheep
24. Hot
25. Excavated: 2 wds.
26. Port city of Japan
27. Sort of wildlife pattern: 2 wds.
28. Rat's urban passageway
29. Striped insects
31. Rocker Mr. Gallagher's
32. Fred of Limp Bizkit
34. ___ mater
35. Nik Wallenda walks this line
38. Pull in \$\$\$
39. Church members
44. Lay waste
46. Variety of flatfish
48. Moved around the shallow water
49. Knitting stitches
50. Italy's former currency
51. Glass Tiger singer Mr. Frew
52. Cease
53. Remedy
54. Length unit
55. Filmmaker Ms. Ephron
56. Nell ___ (17th-century English actress who was King Charles II's mistress)

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
During all your conversations with others today, you will be calm and realistic. You see the limitations that others have, and you're willing to accept them with grace.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you today, because you want to become more disciplined in an inner way.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Someone older or more experienced might have advice for you today, or they might assist you in some way. It's possible that you will strike up a new friendship, even a romance, with someone of an age difference.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Relationships with bosses and authority figures are excellent today. If others ask for your advice about how to make something look better, you can help them.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
This is a good day to make serious plans about future travel. Likewise, you can make future plans about further education, publishing, the media, medicine and the law.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Some kind of legal ruling might profit you today, because you will benefit from the wealth and resources of others. If something comes your way, just say, "Thank you!"

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A discussion with a partner or close friend will be productive and realistic today. This is because you do not have pie-in-the-sky expectations.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will accomplish a lot at work today because others will help and support you. You find it easy to be polite and reasonable, which is why your relationships will be so positive.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Romance with someone older might take place today. This is a good day to make plans for a vacation, because you won't overlook details.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A discussion with an older family member could be significant today. You also will enjoy budgeting for home redecorating projects.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You are calm and realistic today, which is why you get along with others so well. You can even act as a mediator if others disagree.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Your approach to anything financial will be conservative, solid and realistic today. This is a good day to think about a budget. It's also a good day to buy something useful and long-lasting.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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4	5	2	6	3	7	8	9	1
1	3	9	5	2	8	4	7	6
8	7	6	9	4	1	2	5	3
6	8	4	1	9	5	3	2	7
5	9	7	2	8	3	1	6	4
2	1	3	7	6	4	5	8	9
3	2	5	4	7	9	6	1	8
9	4	1	8	5	6	7	3	2
7	6	8	3	1	2	9	4	5



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